

Work Task E5:	Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, Colorado River Indian Tribes
Partners:	Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)
Point of Contact:	Barbara Raulston, LC-2453 (702) 293-8788
Purpose:	A research and development agreement will test planting, maintenance and irrigation methods on agricultural fields while producing cottonwood, willow and mesquite habitat for various LCR MSCP species.
Conservation Measures:	Develop techniques in support of all covered species habitat creation requirements and a potential site for creation of habitat.
Long-term Goal:	Research and Acreage credit (cottonwood/willow and mesquite)
Location:	CRIT 9, 10, 11, and 12 at the Ahakhav Tribal Preserve.
FY05 Estimate:	\$120,000 for in-house staff, supplies, and materials in support of the agreement. Funding for the CRIT was obligated in FY04.
Project Description:	<p>The Ahakhav Tribal Preserve (Preserve) is located on the lower Colorado River south of Parker, Arizona on the Colorado River Indian Reservation. In 1995, the CRIT established the Preserve to protect fish, wildlife and plants in the riparian areas along the river. The Preserve has become an important gathering place for Tribal members and the public for recreational and educational purposes. In partnership with multiple agencies and entities interested in preserving habitat on the river, restoration projects to improve native riparian habitat has been extremely successful here.</p> <p>The project will utilize four areas to test different mass planting techniques, irrigation methods, weed control, seed collection, and site maintenance. Three sites are located on the Ahakhav Preserve and are called CRIT 9, CRIT 10, and CRIT 11. All work will be done in an effort to determine the most successful, efficient, and cost-effective methods for various re-vegetation projects. The project will utilize a variety of methodology and procedures from start to finish. Management of the project will include standard restoration efforts and modern farming techniques. Ahakhav staff will closely document all steps so processes will be able to be consistently recreated and expanded upon in the future. The end result of this project will be approximately 120 acres of newly revegetated land, a 135-acre maintenance project, and valuable data on many aspects and methods of the restoration process</p>

**Accomplishments
/Conclusions to date:**

CRIT 9: Maintenance-Cover crops planted to protect site from weed infestation and hold soils in place until revegetation. Four acres of cottonwood were grown from seed harvested throughout the Preserve.

CRIT 10: Research for mass planting: testing planting media mixes to produce highest success of seedlings, testing of effects of rooting hormones, application of foliar fertilizer and pruning, dormant vs. non-dormant cutting survival.

CRIT 11: Archeological Surveys completed to satisfy Reclamation compliance requirements. A small portion of CRIT 11 will be left undisturbed based on results of survey. Clearing on remaining area complete and soil sampling has started.

CRIT 12: the area for this portion of the project has not been designated to date.